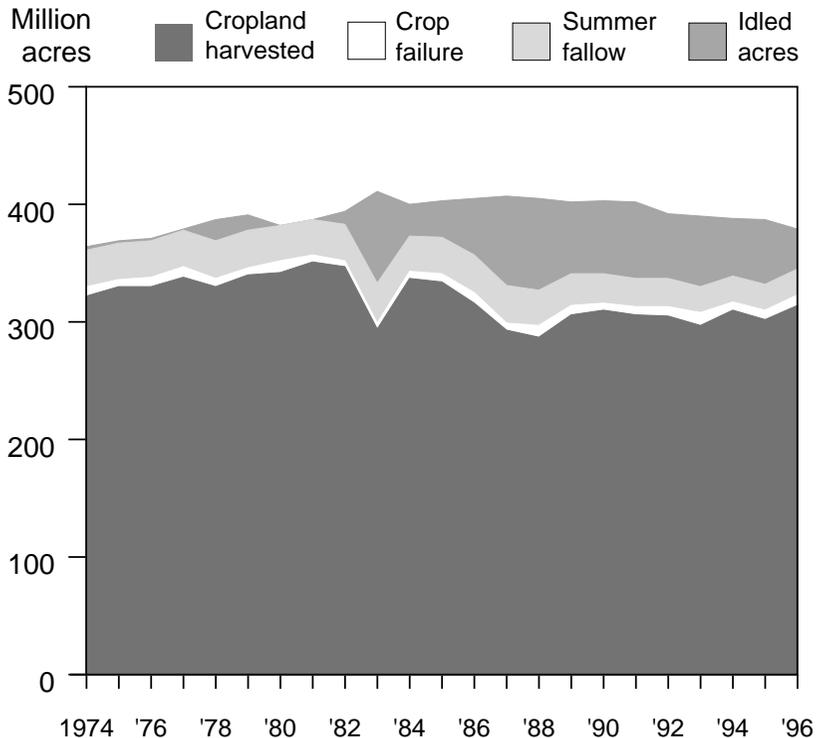


## ■ Land Tenure

Land tenure describes the farm operator's ownership interest in the land farmed. The major land tenure categories are (1) full owners, who own all the land they operate, (2) part owners, who own some and rent the remainder of their land, and (3) tenants, who rent all of their land or work on shares for others. The majority of farms in the 1995 Farm Costs and Returns Survey (55 percent) reported full ownership of

Figure 2-2.

Major Uses of Cropland, 1974-96



the land they operated, while 36 percent owned part and rented part of the farmland they operated. Only 9 percent of operations reported that they rented all of their land.

Part owners generally operate the largest farms, averaging 714 acres in 1995, followed by tenants with 602 acres and full owners with 223 acres per farm. Part owners account for the largest share of acreage operated (59 percent of the total in 1995).

Gross farm sales are also concentrated on part-owner operations (51 percent of gross farm sales in 1995). The average value of gross farm sales for part owners in 1995 was \$114,400, about \$32,000 less than the average for tenants at \$146,300. Gross farm sales for full-owner operations were much smaller, averaging \$47,700.